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HUNGARIAN PROTESTANTS SEND CHRISTMAS PEACE APPEAL

Leaders of the Hungarian Protestant churches sent a Christmas message containing an appeal for peace to Christians abroad. Parts of the message, which was signed by bishops, presidents, and superintendents of the Hungarian Protestant churches, follow.

"We have reached Christmas in an atmosphere of international crisis almost ready to erupt, and the question of peace or war casts a shadow on our festive joy. In Korea and in other parts of the world the fires of war are flaming. Christians of the world react to the perils threatening the existence of mankind in different ways. Some of them, unfortunately, have been blinded by years of war propaganda and have become, willingly or unwillingly, the tools of the warmongering American financiers. The poisonous weapons of financiers include a campaign of slander against Eastern Europe and Asiatic countries. We appeal to you to fight hypocrisy which abuses Christian principles and stirs up hatred between the peoples and the churches.

"Others advocate a so-called neutral Christian attitude toward the problems of war and peace. Propagators of this erroneous attitude endeavor, after having failed to enlist the help of Christians in the service of the warmongers, to assume a passive approach and thus give a free hand to the evil forces preparing for war.

"The Hungarian Protestant churches are ready to support the cause of peace. After years of experience, we are of the opinion that the Hungarian people and government are genuinely interested in peace.

"We beg you, Christians of the world, to unite with us in the service of peace. First, let us fight for the immediate cessation of the Korean bloodshed, for the banning of atom bombs, for the accord of the Big Five, and for immediate reduction of armaments."

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